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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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FEBRUARY 28, 2007

IT'S YOUR PAPER

Job Fair Links Students and Biz

By BRAD TAYLOR
 STAFF WRITER

The pouring rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of students and businesses trying to make a connection in Monarch Hall at Valley College's Feb. 22 job fair.

The fair was sponsored by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's "Hire LA's Youth" project, whose goal is to secure a minimum of 1,000 private sector summer jobs for young adults ages 18-24 who live in Los Angeles. The entire "Hire LA's Youth" campaign has placed more than 5,000 young people in jobs since the summer of 2006.

"We are not going to turn anyone away," said Work Source representative Gregory Scheib, when asked about those students over 24 years old.

More than 22 businesses participated in the event as eager employers answered questions about what their companies had to offer. Everyone from Best Buy to UPS was busy handing out applications and explaining what positions were available.

"Sometimes people get a misconception on what we have to offer," said UPS representative Abner Laboriel. "This is one of our biggest ways to get our company out there."

Even with the bad weather, Monarch Hall was bustling with curious students, many of whom were busy filling out applications or just taking as much in as possible before class.

see 'Fair' page 4

FUSING THE FUTURE



PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

SPARKS FLY - Valley College is undergoing big changes as Revitalizing Valley, the master plan to update and renovate the school's facilities, gets underway. Students can often find construction workers, holes in the ground and chain link fences around the campus as building progresses.

Valley Fetes "Fat" Holiday

By WILL REYES
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

Valley College hosted its own "Fat Wednesday" Mardi Gras celebration Feb. 21 in Monarch Square with a lively array of music, African arts and crafts and New Orleans style cuisine that set a festive mood for the occasion.

Held during the first club day of the spring semester, the event was coordinated by the Valley Katrina Committee in conjunction with the Black Student Union and raised more than \$226 for the upcoming Valley trip to New Orleans with Habitat for Humanity to rebuild homes ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

"It's really important that people don't forget what happened in New Orleans and that they're still in need of help down there," said Tara Perry, the president of the BSU, which forfeited their annual Black heritage celebration so the committee could hold the Mardi Gras event.

"We need to do all that we can and [giving up black heritage day] was the least the BSU could do," said Perry. "Hopefully we get a big response from everyone and we get some people down [to New Orleans] to help."

A long-standing tradition synonymous with the city of New Orleans, Mardi Gras, French for "Fat Tuesday," is an annual Carnival celebration that is often referred to as "America's biggest party." Despite the devastation left behind by Katrina, New Orleans has held the festivities the past two years in an effort to boost morale and revenues for the city's reconstruction.

"We really wanted to have fun for a good cause and find a fun way to keep New Orleans and the Gulf region on peoples' minds," said Tara Lake, an African-American studies professor and leader of the Katrina committee. "So we thought what better way than Mardi Gras, because New Orleans has given us so many gifts."

Valley students and faculty enjoyed the hot bowls of gumbo, spoken word, sculptures, crafts and live Blues music from the Valley Players - a trio of faculty and staff members Reed Walsh, Roberto Gutierrez and Neil Roberts.

"I was impressed by the students' spirit and effort," said Cheryl Stoneham, an English professor at Valley who bought some items from an arts and crafts vendor. "Cultural events are like nourishment for me and I knew it was for a good cause."

Student clubs were also at the event handing out information on their clubs and helping the ASU and Katrina Committee sell raffles tickets, beads, party masks and temporary tattoos to raise funds. The raffle prizes included an iPod, a DVD/VCR combo and a gift certificate to a Cajun restaurant.

"I would definitely say the event was a success," said Lake. "If people missed this, they missed a hot treat."

Outreach Opens Valley's Doors Wide

By WILL REYES
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

The first few weeks of college can be an overwhelming experience for new students. With campuses that can be twice the size of their high schools and average student populations of more than 12,000, the commotion of transitioning can leave many freshmen feeling lost.

The Valley College Student Recruitment Program is hoping to help make that adjustment easier.

"We want students to feel connected [to Valley] so when they get here on the first day they aren't freaked out," said Joel Trudgeon, the student recruitment coordinator. "Everyone is going to be nervous on their first day of college, but if they can be less nervous, then we've met our goal."

With a staff that includes seven paid university students visiting local high schools across Southern California, the program works with high school students from their beginning stages of interest in college all the way to their first

day of class.

North Hollywood, Burbank, Birmingham and Van Nuys high schools are just a few of the 30 institutions involved in the program. The student-counselors spend up to four hours at a time at least twice a month talking with students from each school. The job duties vary from filling out applications with students to disproving the common misconceptions that prevent some from ever going to college.

"Some students we talk to don't even have any idea what

college is," said Igor Kagan, a student-counselor and Valley graduate. "All they know about are the barriers that are placed between them and doing what they want to do."

"We help break those barriers down by telling them that they can actually do it," continued Kagan. "You don't have to get good grades, you don't have to have a lot of money; no one in your family has to have gone to school ... everybody has access

see 'Outreach' page 4

Program Serves Deserving Students

By JESSICA SHAFFER
 OPINION EDITOR

Angelica Rios is not rich, nor did she have the best grades in high school, yet she is succeeding in college thanks in part to the Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS).

"It has helped me achieve my goals," said Rios. "I'm going on to my last year so I should be transferring really soon, which is really exciting ... Overall I've

had a good experience here at the office."

EOPS allows Valley College students like Rios, who have lower incomes and average grades, to get help so that they can thrive in college. EOPS offers their students free services such as academic counseling, tutoring, scholarship and career information, early registration and partial book vouchers.

"[Going to school] should be easier," said Rios. "It should be like you actually want to go to school because why are you just letting college go to waste?"

The program is funded by the state and has been around since the late 1960s.

Senior Office Assistant Catherine Wright has worked for the agency for more than 20 years, since she was a student at Valley. She is proud to be a part of what she calls "an amazing program."

"I think that when [students] come to EOPS program, especially when they are new students, but even if they just are continuing students, when they walk in the door they are going to receive a warm greeting from all of us here," said Wright. "We're

see 'EOPS' page 4

VALLEY PEOPLE

Paget Teaches Math and Moxie

By JOSH SPENCE
 STAFF WRITER

Glen Paget was a teacher well before he had multiple sclerosis (MS). At first glance you might mistake his assistant as the math instructor until Professor Paget rides in on his wheelchair, taking command of the room. While the students are quick to adapt to his disability, Paget is all about the math.

In 1991 Paget was diagnosed with MS and while he has only succumbed to the wheelchair recently, and needs an assistant to write on the board for him, it hasn't hampered his love of teaching. He considers himself married to his job with his kids being the students he influences every semester.

"If anything I wanted to teach even more because there are so many things I can't do," explained Paget. "This is my life; Teaching."

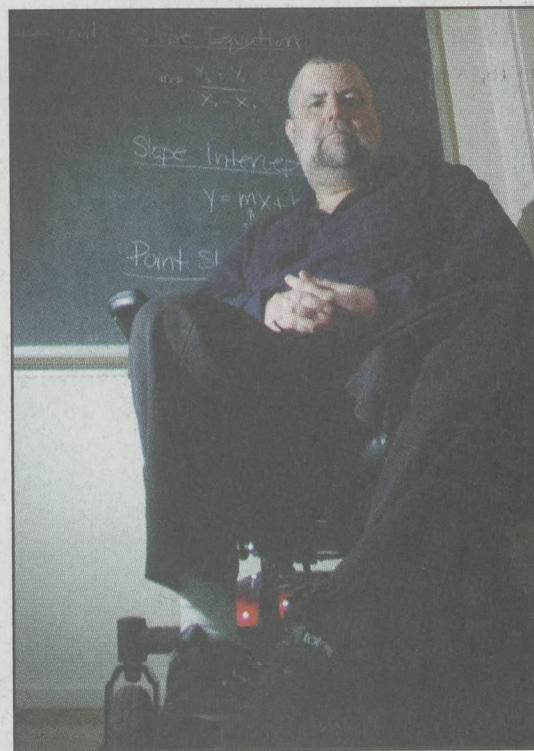
MS is a chronic inflammatory disease that attacks the central nervous system. It has a variety of symptoms that include visual problems, muscle weakness, fatigue, and short-term memory loss. Unfortunately, MS causes impaired mobility and disability in most cases. While severe depression is also a common symptom of MS, Paget couldn't be more positive

"With my wheelchair, I'm limited with what I can do," he said. "I can't drive and I can't really do sports. That's okay though because teaching is my passion."

Paget, who teaches Math 115 and Math 125 is strict when it comes to his curriculum. Issuing tardies and assigning students to approach the board to explain their work is the norm in his class. Weekly quizzes on movie quotes and sports so students aren't overloaded with integers, polynomials, and variables are also common.

"I want my students to be serious students by doing the homework and asking questions," said Paget. "My class is designed so a student can earn any grade he's willing to work for, but I also want them to have some fun in class."

This method has been proven successful with great reviews from ratemyprofessor.com in



VALERIA PODOYNITSYNA / VALLEY STAR

INSPIRING - Math Professor Glen Paget shows students that obstacles can be overcome in and out of class.

addition to acclaim from colleagues.

"Mr. Paget is one of the best teachers at LAVC," wrote one student. "He is very kind, and really cares about his students. He explains everything very clearly and is always willing to help and answer questions."

see 'Paget' page 4



CLAUDIA RIVERA / VALLEY STAR
HELPING OUT - EOPS students worker Angelica Rios helps Ruzanna Mirakyan make an appointment.

ASU Lends a Helping Hand at Valley

By BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

This spring the Valley College Associated Student Union is back in session and ready to make a difference by helping lower textbook prices and bringing the student body together.

The ASU has been hard at work planning fundraisers to help Hurricane Katrina victims and dedicating themselves to improving the pocket books of every student on campus. During a recent council retreat the main thing on everyone's mind was the high cost of textbooks.

"The Executive Council decided that our number one priority would be making textbooks affordable for Valley students," said ASU Evening Division Commissioner Silvia Jimenez in an email. "But we can only do this if the faculty is willing to listen and students are willing to take action."

The action comes in the form of a petition, which can be signed at the ASU office. By signing the petition students can let the instructors and administration know that they are concerned about the choices they make when ordering textbooks. This

petition will also be sent to the Association of American Publishers to raise awareness of the issues students face when they enter the school book store.

"To lower the prices of books is my main goal," said ASU President Narine Jugharyan. "The issues with the books today are a big issue with students, and it will help."

The student union also has their eye on helping Hurricane Katrina victims. Spring break will see a contingent of 17 students and three faculty members traveling to New Orleans to work with Habitat

for Humanity. They will be helping rebuild one hurricane-ravaged community.

To help ease the travel costs for the students' trip to New Orleans, the ASU sold teddy bears with candy. These "Bear Hugs" were sold as Valentines Day gifts for \$5 each, and they completely sold out, raising approximately \$5,000, with another \$5,000 still needed. Another focus of the ASU is the International Fine Arts Day, a celebration of the different cultures that make up the Valley population.

"I want to see everyone getting to know each others

cultures and getting to be more friendly," said Jugharyan. Students can expect dancing, music and food from all over the world.

ASU elections will be held this April and students interested in a position can pick up an application in the ASU office in Monarch Hall. The deadline for applications is March 23 at 4 p.m.

The ASU Executive Council holds its weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 12:45 p.m. in Campus Center room 104. For more information on the New Orleans trip visit "New Orleans Spring Break Trip" at www.lavc.edu.

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Colleges Convene to Combat Cheating

By JESSICA SHAFFER
OPINION EDITOR

With the proliferation of the Internet and many other new technologies, the incidents of cheating in college have risen dramatically and faculties are struggling to keep up with their students.

Valley College held a conference on academic integrity last Friday, Feb. 23, to discuss what faculty members should do to prevent their students from cheating. According to the key presentation, more than 75 percent of college students admit to cheating on tests or written assignments.

"There's been a slippage in what people think is wrong behavior," said Jeanne Wil-

son, keynote speaker and director of the Office of Judicial Affairs for the University of California Davis. "Things that the faculty are very clear on ... may not be clear to students."

Other topics mentioned in the presentations were students' attitudes on cheating, devices used for cheating and strategies to combat it. Wilson suggested that schools have clear rules that are consistently enforced with meaningful sanctions for offenders.

"This whole issue has arisen to be a statewide issue, actually a national issue," said Valley President Tyree Wieder. "Because I think there's so much access, im-

mediate access for students in terms of online materials and what's available in the library ... [that] it's hard for people to understand how to appropriately use all of that information."

The District Academic Senate and the vice president of Student Services cosponsored the event. A task force to combat cheating and plagiarism has been meeting for about a year with faculty members from the different community colleges.

The four-hour program consisted of five separate presentations by faculty members from different campuses. Faculty members attended the conference from all nine

campuses in the Los Angeles Community College District.

"I thought it went really well," said Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahoussaye, one of the presenters who was instrumental in putting the conference together. "It seemed like the faculty were really engaged. It seemed like they got useful information."

The presentations were designed for faculty members only, but there was some debate on whether students should be involved in the next cheating and plagiarism conference.

"I think that [these conferences would] be much more effective if the students were involved," said Scott Wiegand, co-director of STARS and tutor coordinator of the Writing Center. "That's the way that it's going to get back to the students. The students [should] have the opportunity to have their input into it."

Delahoussaye said that the academic integrity task force might have another meeting on cheating and plagiarism and include students at the next one, but said they would first have to regroup and assess the success of this conference.

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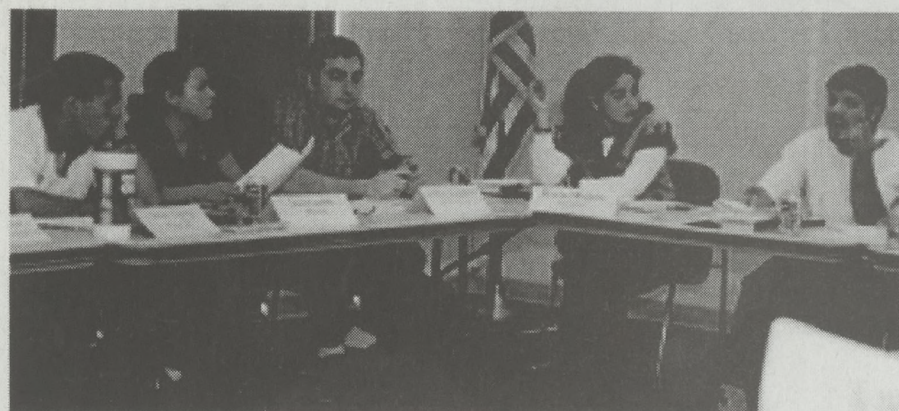
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Commissioner of Athletics
Commissioner of Student and Social
Commissioner of Political Affairs
Commissioner of Ethnic and Cultural
Commissioner of Campus and Environmental
Commissioner of Evening Division
Commissioner of Fine Arts

The deadline for applications is March 23 at 4:00 pm in CC 102.

Pick up an application in the ASU office located at CC102
or at <http://www.lavc.edu/StudentServWebsite/ASU/index.html>

Please see the reverse page for job descriptions.

ASU Elections -- April 17 and 18 -- Monarch Square



OPINION

3

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

A LOOK AT AN ISSUE FROM BOTH SIDES. THIS WEEK: **WHY ARE AMERICANS SO FASCINATED BY "AMERICAN IDOL?"**

■ Make your voice heard!
Participate in the online poll at
www.lavalleystar.com

"American Idol" Brings Out the Worst in People

By JESSICA SHAFFER
OPINION EDITOR

"American Idol" is one of the highest rated shows on television, but that is only because Americans are easily amused. "American Idol" is a pop-culture phenomenon because it indulges peoples' most vulgar curiosities.

The show is in the second round of the sixth season; 37.1 million viewers tuned in to watch the show's 2007 premiere. People often mistake "American Idol" for a talent show when really it is just an excuse to devalue people.

One of the most popular portions occurs during the first few weeks of the program, when the poorest performances are given the most attention. Contestants are chosen to appear on the program based upon their appearance, despite, or maybe because of, an overpowering lack of talent.

Many people watch it simply to see others fail. The three-judge panel is brutal to the poor people who have a misconception of their singing ability. The audience takes pleasure from watching the judges, especially Simon Cowell, annihilate singers' aspirations.

Cowell has become famous because he is the meanest judge. He has created a career from verbally attacking "Idol"

contestants.

"American Idol" invites people to ridicule the singers and the popularity of this kind of a show speaks volumes about the American public.

People watch the first weeks of the show for the same reason kids become bullies on their elementary school playground. Hurting other people makes them feel better about themselves. "American Idol" encourages the public to become a bunch of overgrown bullies.

The show has become a mainstream success when it should be at the very most, a guilty pleasure.

During an interview on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" former "Idol" contestant Jennifer Hudson said that they don't tell the public that potential contestants go through three preliminary interviews before they actually get on the show, so that by the time they get on the show they believe that they are a great singer.

Even in later episodes of the show after the terrible singers have been humiliated, some people continue to watch just to see Cowell tell the contestants just how awful their latest performance was. The viciousness in the show is encouraged and it does not stop very until the last episode.

The mean tone of the show has not lessened in season six. If anything it has become more

intense since TV executives have realized the profits of nastiness.

People know "American Idol" will offer them nothing

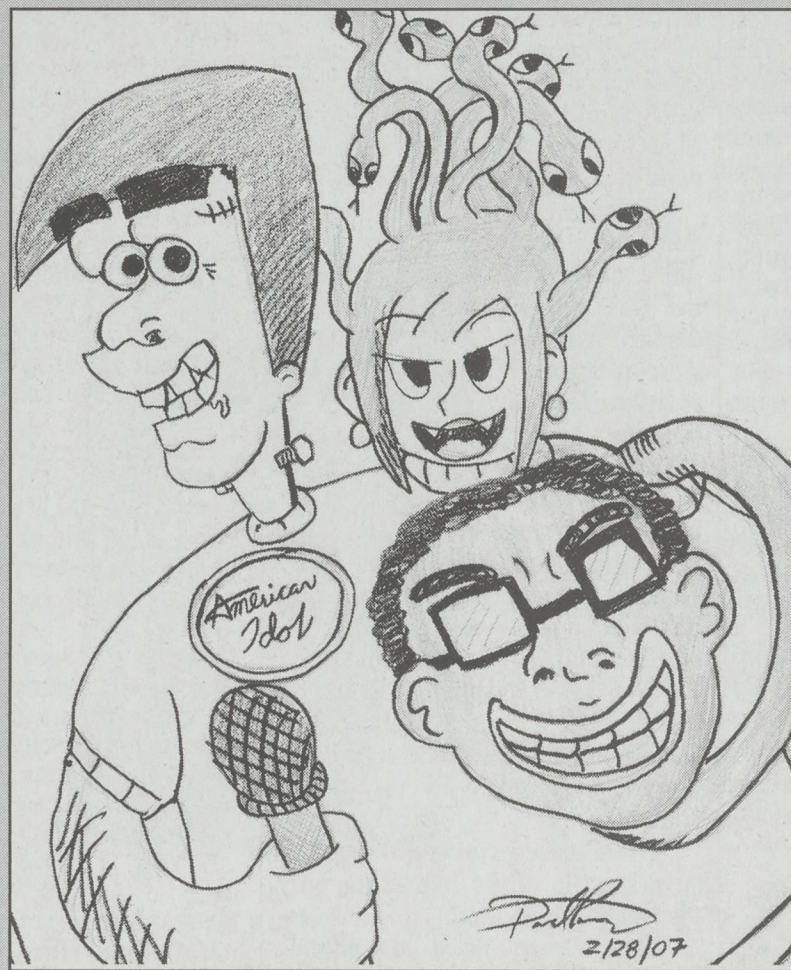


ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL PARRA / VALLEY STAR

but abuse, but will they still try out for the show? Of course, because the slim chance of being famous is worth a person's self-respect.

"American Idol" has come to Personify American Dream

By BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Since television's earliest days, music has been a staple in the living rooms of America. Television stars

record labels, "American Idol" takes the idea of TV as record producer and lets the American audience decide what music will rule the charts.

Unlike most new music artists, the Idols can almost completely bypass the corporate music machine. MTV was the most powerful force in music; if you didn't get your image on a video you couldn't make it on the radio.

According to a Frontline documentary, "The Way the Music Died," radio stations only add two to three new songs a week onto their play-list rotation. This is out of 32,000 records they must go through in year, and most of those new spots go to established artists.

In Idol people from all walks of life come to audition for their moment of fame and success. Idol showcases all races, creeds and colors of America, as well as every class from dirt poor to spoiled rotten. It doesn't matter if you are skinny, fat, or totally tone deaf, every one gets a chance.

Sure many critics like to take aim at the horrible "singers" and blame Idol for embarrassing those who may or may not be mentally imbalanced.

But I don't think William Hung minds selling 195,000 copies of his debut album, or the dozens of fame seekers who get spotlighted on the "Today Show" after being torn apart by Simon Cowell. In fact, Idol may be the only place where every one gets treated equally.

Idol is also the face of democracy on television. The contestants survive not by the will of the three

judges, but by the votes of people. Many contestants have made the top five just on the sheer good will of viewers.

Looking at the winners of Idol we can see our country's diversity. From all-American girl Kelly Clarkson to the "velvet teddy bear" Ruben Studdard, Idol winners can be anyone. In the harsh world of the music industry, would Taylor Hicks even get an audition? Would a single mom like Fantasia Barrino have been given a chance to live her dream?

With most prime-time television full of violence and sex, Idol remains a show that can be watched by the entire family. Both kids and adults can not only watch the show but participate in the outcome.

On Idol everyone is a winner. If you look at the current Billboard charts you will see that not just one, but four Idols are in the top 25, and only one of them was the actual "winner." From Chris Daughtry to Carrie Underwood, the sound of the Idols encompasses the entire musical spectrum from Country to R&B.

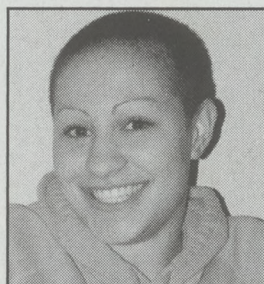
Even the film industry has Idol fever! Idol finalist Jennifer Hudson won an Oscar Sunday for her role in "Dreamgirls."

Idol is a dream factory that brings us together. A show that lets us all participate in a program where any American boy or girl can watch and think that one day they could be up there on stage. The only thing missing from this show is Paula Abdul wrapped in an American flag, but hey it is still early in this season!

Campus View

PHOTOS BY VALERIA PODOYNITSYNA
TEXT BY KRISTEN BECKER

How do you feel about the fact that more Americans voted for "American Idol" than did for president?



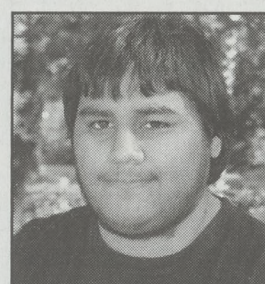
"I do feel that [young] people ... should be more focused on having a say because they're eventually going to be older ... and the decisions that they make now can effect them later."

Ana Huhane
Undecided



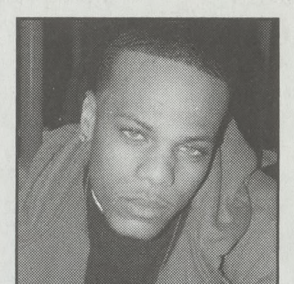
"I think it's bad because not enough people care about the president, they care more about a TV show. It affects the way we're choosing our president because if more people voted, maybe we would have had a different president instead of this one."

Jasmine Jackson
Communications



"It's easier to vote for American Idol - you just call in, but for president, you have to register ... A lot of people can't vote - felons can't vote, foreigners can't vote, but you can do all that for American Idol."

Azad Jarrahdad
Electrical Engineering



"It really doesn't bother me. A lot of people don't really know the issues ... people our age do watch more TV than pay attention to political matters."

Victor Cooper
Business

AN OPINION

Israel and Iran's War of Words Could Easily Ignite World War III

■ The verbal battle between Israel and Iran is creating more conflict in the already violent Middle East

By KRISTEN BECKER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

While nations must protect their territory and citizens, in this age of increasingly deadly weapons, what now amounts to Israel and Iran calling each other names has the potential to turn into a catastrophic war.

Although both sides are only flexing their muscles to intimidate the other and prevent attack, the rhetoric may make violence unavoidable.

Because of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's confrontational foreign policy, Israelis view him and his nation as their most serious threat.

Although Ahmadinejad stated in 2005 that Israel should be "wiped off the map" and held a convention of Holocaust deniers after having publicly stated that the Holocaust never happened, for Israel the most disturbing of Iran's actions is its quest for nuclear power.

Israel and most Western powers believe Iran is attempting to build a nuclear weapon despite the many assurances from various Iranian officials

that the nuclear program is meant only for peaceful purposes.

Because of the fear of a nuclear Iran, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has been lobbying the United States and European countries to keep pressure on Iran.

In an interview on German television Olmert made a distinction between his nation's own nuclear weapons and

Iran's desire for one.

"Iran openly, explicitly and publicly threatens to wipe Israel off the map. Can you say this is the same level, when

you are aspiring to have nuclear weapons, as America, France, Israel, Russia?"

In his haste to publicly vilify Iran as a threat to Middle East peace, Olmert has conveniently ignored the effect Israel's own nuclear weapons have on

security in the region. Just as Israel uses its weapons as a deterrent against attack, its neighbors will do the same.

Iran and Israel are embroiled in a war of words that could easily lead to a violent confrontation. Both nations are unbending in their convictions and are reactionary. Olmert's own comments confirm Israel's willingness to get caught up in a war with Iran.

"We cannot tolerate, we will not tolerate, those who challenge Israel's right to exist while actively seeking to develop the catastrophic weapons to fulfill their goals," Olmert said at a convention in

Los Angeles last year.

Ahmadinejad has already stated that Iran will retaliate if Israel targets any Iranian nuclear facility. Unfortunately for the rest of the world, if both leaders continue this way they'll prove that two nations' wrongs will only lead to a violent and deadly fight.

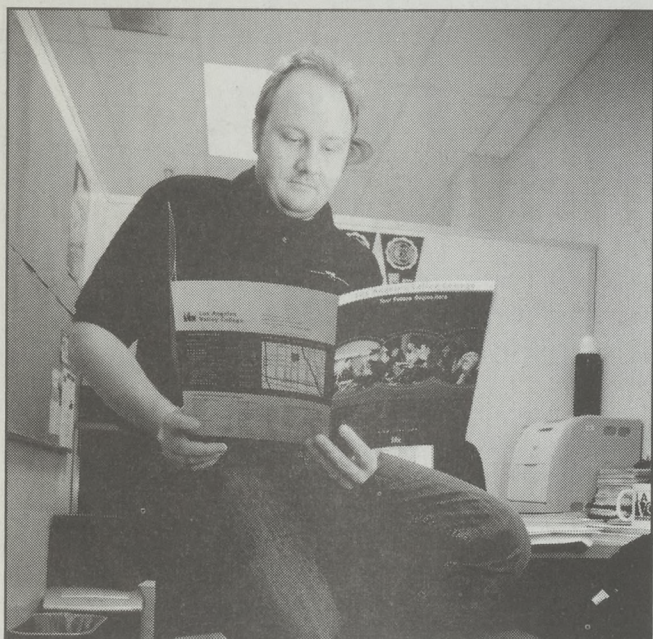
In a region as violent and unstable as the Middle East, both Israel and Iran need to step back and work towards avoiding conflict rather than actively courting it. If neither government changes their policies toward the other, it is only a matter of time before this war of words becomes World War III.

We want to hear what you think!

Send letters to the editor to thevalleystar@yahoo.com -- Letters should be no longer than 300 words, include a subject line of "Letters to the Editor" and are subject to editing.

'Outreach'

continued from page 1



RICARDO BARRERA / VALLEY STAR

LEADING THE WAY - Joel Trudgeon helps high school students make the transition to college an easy one.

[to a community college]."

Lack of knowledge about the benefits college offers is something Trudgeon says the program works to overcome. Recognizing that high school counselors can often be understaffed and overworked - some institutions have only one for thousands of students - Trudgeon said that programs like the one at Valley are very important.

"A lot of the high school students in our local area have never even been exposed to college," said Trudgeon. "Someone decided that because [the students] didn't have a high G.P.A. or for whatever [other reason], that they weren't college bound, so they put them in some corner and forgot about them."

"No matter what they did in high school, if they were an amazing student with a 4.0 or they didn't graduate or had a 1.0, they can still come to Valley, press the reset button, get a new start and go on and do anything with their life that they want to," said Trudgeon.

Trudgeon works together with the student-counselors in the program to guide prospective students along every step of the college application procedure.

"We sit down with them one on one and help them enroll in classes and

make sure that any student that really wants to come to Valley - whether they are timid or absolutely know what they want to do - has all the steps they need in place to get here," said Trudgeon. "And if they need someone to walk them through the process, then that's what we're here to do."

The student-counselors regularly contact high school students that take part in the recruitment program until they complete the entire process. The recruitment office tracks its students in a database and does follow up calls making sure they are moving forward and meeting the requirements for enrollment. They are also given

information on services like financial aid and various departments, and sent letters congratulating them on their acceptance.

"A lot of high school students don't come because they think they didn't get accepted," said Trudgeon. "We let them know that it's a community college and they got accepted ... and we [also] want them to have a level of pride for Valley."

The office works together with other student service departments at Valley, enrolling thousands of students and creating a growing number of success stories. "A lot of the students we've recruited have now moved on to and graduated from four-year universities," said Trudgeon.

Their efforts to encourage students into enrolling and attending classes culminate in an annual event they hold called "Senior Day."

Held at Valley, the day provides 40 high school students at a time with a campus tour and orientation, and gives them the assessment tests required for their placement in math and English courses. Beginning March 13, nine area high schools will take part in the five-hour event.

'Fair'

continued from page 1

Monarch Hall was bustling with curious students, many of whom were busy filling out applications or just taking as much in as possible before class.

"This is a pretty neat opportunity," said student Christina Ripberger. "I have a class in five minutes but I really wanted to check this out."

Most of those involved seemed very pleased with the number of students and businesses who chose to participate.

"I'm happy with the turnout, these employers are ready to hire," said Work Source representative Eva Clayton. "It is always good to work with community colleges."

There was also career planning going on, well beyond just a summer job. One of the busiest tables was the Los Angeles Fire Department display. At any given time there were at least three students waiting to ask questions about classes to take for a career in the department.

There was also a bit of Hollywood at the fair with Warner Bros Studio looking for some fresh faces. The WB table caught the eyes of many students who were wondering what qualifications they needed for a job at the studio.

"We have immediate needs in many areas," said Warner representative Imelda Heindel. "We are looking for people with good people skills."

There were even some pleasant surprises for those expecting only fast food employment.

"There are good companies here," said physical education major Aldo Solaris as he inquired about a job at the Vons Grocery Company table. "This is very coordinated."

Those interested in HIRE LA can call 1-800-367-2562.

'EOPS'

continued from page 1

really glad to see the students and they come in and sometimes they are lost and we can help them ... I think they will have success if they come to EOPS."

Associate Dean of Student Services EOPS and CARE Walter Jones said, "Students who are engaged outside the classroom have a tendency to be more successful. EOPS goes above and beyond to help students ... to attain their educational goals."

EOPS is divided into two branches. The main section of these services is for regular students but there is a subsection of EOPS called Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) specifically for single parents.

"That particular program is designed for single parents who are EOPS eligible students," said Jones. "But we are really trying to stress that we want to get more CARE students involved because we have money ... that we have to give away but we don't have enough students to give it to."

CARE gives parents money for childcare and transportation to help make achieving an education as easy as possible.

To apply to become a member of EOPS, students should go to the EOPS office located in the Campus Center between the Campus Center building and the Cafeteria. Many students are eligible for the program but they may not know about the program or how it can be an asset to them.

"You have help so why not take advantage of it?" asked Rios. "[EOPS] is there to help you."

'Paget'

continued from page 1

Upon graduating Magna Cum Laude with an Associate in Arts in Mathematics from Valley in 1971, Paget transferred to UCLA where he received his Bachelor of Arts.

"He's a pure teacher, he's wanted to be a teacher from way back," said math teacher Norman Siever, who taught Paget when he attended Valley. "I remember I gave him a math problem; I asked how many beer cans could you fit in a cubic light year. He figured it out and we still joke about that today."

Paget's first teaching experience came when he began teaching fourth-graders elementary math while in graduate school, also at UCLA. Paget was hired as a permanent instructor at East Los Angeles College in addition to teaching part time calculus at UCLA.

In 1985 Paget returned to Valley College to teach introductory and advanced algebra, something he describes as his dream job.

"My dream really has come true," said Paget. "It's a fun and easy job and I'm so lucky to have it."

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VALLEY LIFE

5

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, Feb. 28
Essay Structure/ Outlining Workshop
@ LAVC Writing Center; 3-4 p.m.

Thursday, March 1
Kadima String Quartet@
Valley Music
Recital Hall
M106; 11:30 a.m.;
Free

Monday, March 5
The Writing Process Workshop@
LAVC Writing Center; 12-1 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6
Thesis Statements @ Valley
Writing Center;
12-1 p.m.

Think Transfer!

Wednesday, Feb. 28
Job Shadowing Orientation
1-2 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 1
Undecided Major/ Career
Workshop
1-2 p.m.

Friday, March 2
UCLA Buddy Day

Monday, March 5
UC Santa Barbara rep.
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

How to Transfer Workshop
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6
CSU Northridge
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
UC Davis 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Undecided Major/ Career
Workshop
5:30-6:30 p.m.

LAVC SCHEDULE

Thursday 3/1/07

Baseball against College of the Canyons
@ Valley
2 p.m.

Softball against Cuesta @ Valley
2:30 p.m.

Saturday 3/3/07

Baseball against Citrus @ Valley
1 p.m.

Basketball 2nd Round Southern California
@ TBA
TBA

Tuesday 3/6/07

Baseball @ Citrus
2 p.m.

Softball @ Pierce
2:30 p.m.



Oscars' Controversy

By JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

With any Oscar ceremony, there is a certain amount of fanfare that goes with the pomp and circumstance of the evening. Casual fans might be more interested in the red carpet panoply with who's wearing who while nobody really care who won the award for set design. Ellen Degeneres did an amiable job, but this is not to say that the whole night wasn't without controversy.

"Double check the envelope!" said Martin Scorsese when he received his Best Director Award. Scorsese, who had previously been nominated for classic films "Raging Bull" and "Goodfellas," was winless despite his five previous nominations.

"The Departed," which won Best Picture, is a vintage Scorsese film full of his usual motifs of loneliness, redemption, and Catholic guilt. While it's an excellent film, Clint Eastwood's "Letters from Iwo Jima" should've won Best Picture this year.

Eastwood was able to create a visually and emotionally stunning dual masterpiece (along with "Flags of Our Fathers") that hasn't been done before in the genre.

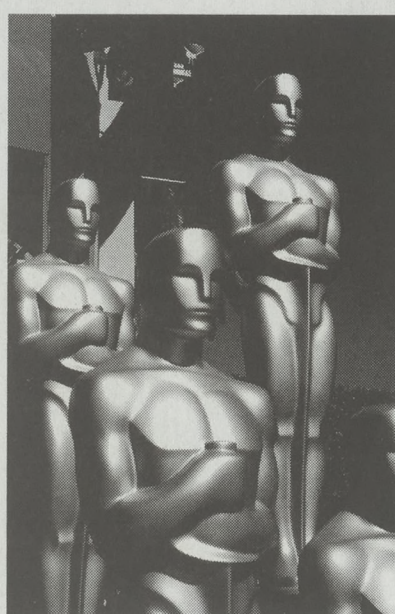
Scorsese is well deserving of an Academy Award and the Academy finally righted the wrong of him being snubbed so many times before (even though he should have three awards already). It's cyclical in that while Scorsese has finally won for a movie that's his forte, Eastwood lost with a movie that is easily his best work.

Alan Arkin, better known as Grandpa Hoover in "Little Miss Sunshine," was the dark horse in the Best Supporting Actor Category this year. Arkin is an actors' actor who understands the craft and has been at that level since the 60s. He is more than deserving of this award. Arkin brought grittiness and charm that made his character likeable and tragic.

Eddie Murphy, who was the favorite to win Best Supporting Actor for his performance as James "Thunder" Early in "Dreamgirls" was rewarded with a

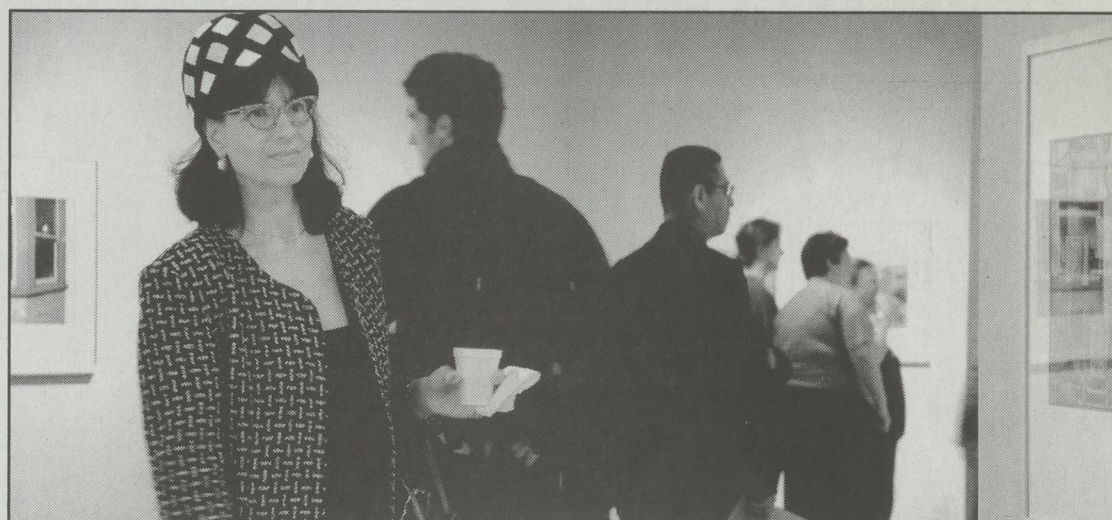
nomination for making an artistic leap and doing a dramatic role. He wasn't able to lose himself in his role, which left the appearance of Eddie Murphy as James "Thunder" Early instead of just James "Thunder" Early. Given the huge media blitz "Dreamgirls" delivered, Arkin's win is a case where performance beat the media hype.

The same couldn't be said in the case for Jennifer Hudson in "Dreamgirls". Admittedly, she gave a stand-out performance with vocal chops that supercede her "American Idol" beginnings, but was her performance better than Rinko Kikuchi's performance as a deaf mute in "Babel"? Kikuchi was able to express a communication divide without saying a word.



IMA KURODA/ VALLEY STAR
KINGS OF HOLLYWOOD- Oscar statues stand guard in front of the Kodak Theater in Hollywood.

Was Hudson's performance better than Abigail Breslin's? Breslin was the redeeming quality in an otherwise hellacious road trip in "Little Miss Sunshine". Without Breslin, Alan Arkin wouldn't have won his Academy Award. Jennifer Hudson's win was the result of a feel good story combined with an overwhelming media blitz. Let's see what she does in her next film.



RICARDO BARRERA/ VALLEY STAR
NIGHT AT THE GALLERY - Annie Reed, Associate Dean of Community Education and Extension browses the art gallery, admiring students' work at "Student Perspectives: Where we Live" exhibit.

Students' Show Sizzles

By KHARA HUBERMAN
COPY EDITOR

The Valley College Art Gallery opened its doors Tuesday night to more than 175 students, administrators, and visitors. The public had a chance to see how 40 photography students view their community.

"What I think is special about [this project] is the fact that it pairs an elite institution, the Getty Museum, with the most democratic institutions of higher learning, the community colleges," said Dennis Reed, Valley's Dean of Fine, Performing and Media Arts. "What made [this project] a real success is the outstanding work that these students do."

The exhibit "Where We Live: Photographs of America from the Berman Collection," features student photographs from Valley, Santa Monica College, College of the Canyons, and East Los Angeles College. Ten students from Valley participated in the J. Paul Getty Museum project.

The project provided promising photography students the unique opportunity of having their work displayed at the Getty while also engaging them in close study of significant artworks displayed at the museum.

The goal of the project was to inspire young artists to create works connected with their home communities and provide opportunities to learn from one of four professional photographers assigned to them according to Beth Laski Communications director at the Getty.

After viewing all the students' works, Valley President Tyree Wieder found her favorite photo by Artak Ayvazyan, one of Valley's photographers.

The photo, which is set at night, shows a boy walking across a white intersection line on Erwin Street. The boy, who is wearing a black sweatshirt with the hood on his head, stares straight at the photographer. To his left and right, the nightlife on the street combines with blurry bright lights from street lamps and signs advertising "Happy Dogs" and "Jerry's Bail Bonds."

"Luncheon, 2006," a photo by Valley student Patrick Hruby, caught the attention of many visitors to the gallery. The main focus is a tea party size white wooden table with white tea cups. To the right is a white fan sitting on a full metal trash container with a metal fence leaning against it and a blue dumpster with the writing "drugs are trash."

William Christenberry, who helped pioneer utilization of color in fine arts photography, was assigned to work with Valley students and left a strong impression with them.

"I liked working with William Christenberry," said Valley photographer Parandzem Grigoryan. "He's an amazing and inspiring photographer and I'm grateful to have the opportunity that I got." Grigoryan said about her experience, "one word; it feels great."

"I am very happy to see my work admired by people I don't know," said Ima Kuroda. "It was exciting and fun working with Christenberry and going to Van Nuys Boulevard where we would all stop and take photos when a student would want to."

Valley students Alex Fayvil, Patrick Hruby, Maria Low, Melanie Saldana, Artak Ayvazyan, Ima Kuroda, Sevan Ghazaryan, Willie Fajardo, Charles Wells and Parandzem Grigoryan provided photographs for this project.

The exhibit will be running until March 29 in the Art Gallery and is open Monday through Thursday 11a.m.- 2p.m. and 7p.m.- 9p.m. The exhibit will be housed at College of the Canyons Aug. 27 - Sept. 22.

SPORTS

Williams Overcomes Adversity to Lead

By GRANT BOMANN
STAFF WRITER

With nine screws and two plates in her left ankle, Valley College freshman infielder Candace Williams continues to shine for the Lady Monarchs softball team.

Starting the season crushing the ball with five home runs in the first nine games, she has led Valley to a 5-4 overall record while going 3-0 in Western State Conference play.

"I just try to relax and go up there and get a hit," said the 5-foot-5-inch Williams, who is achieving her success this season on a surgically-repaired ankle.

The 18-year-old shattered her ankle in 10th grade while sliding into second base. The injury caused her to miss an entire year.

Despite the setback, she continued to play softball and was an All-City 1st team selection her junior and senior seasons.

She went on to become the first softball player from Birmingham High School to be selected to the East/West senior all-star game.

She has been a valuable asset to the Lady Monarchs since joining the team, leading them in home runs and a variety of other categories.

"The kid can hit," said head coach Frankie Garcia. "She is very aggressive both offensive-

"She's motivational, keeps us upbeat and is a fun and athletic team leader." - Teammate Nicole Valentine

ly and defensively and can play just about anywhere in the infield." Williams' contributions extend beyond just her home runs, as evidenced by her determination and confidence that Valley will do well.

"You get on, I get on," She tells teammate

Nicole Valentine before every at-bat. "Every time I say it, it works."

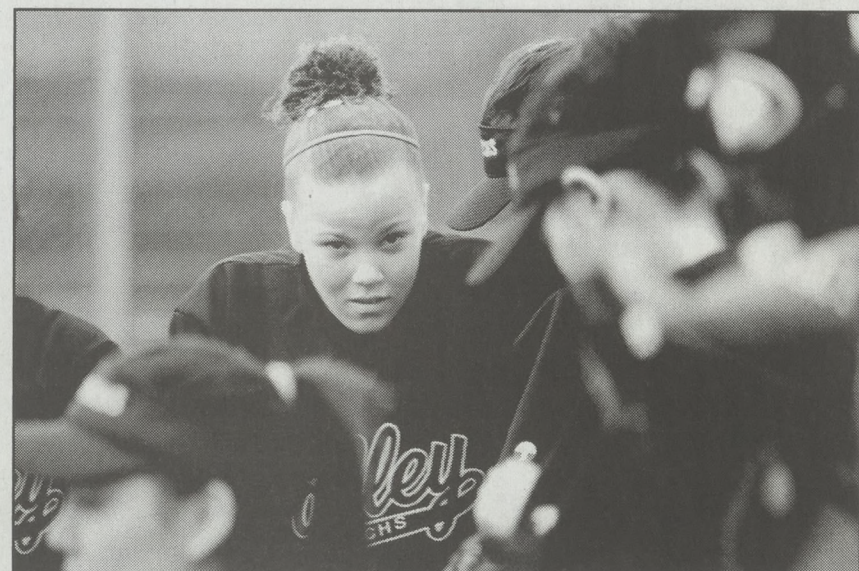
The versatile Williams, who plays catcher and third base, believes the Monarchs could definitely win conference and even possibly a state title.

"We have to take it step by step, after we win conference," she said. "I will get back to you on our chances to win state, this team is very good and we all get along great."

Saying she enjoys hanging out with her teammates both on and off the field, she's left a strong impression with them.

"She's a very good teammate," said Valentine. "She's motivational, keeps us upbeat and is a fun and athletic team leader."

Her athleticism has turned out to be a valuable tool in college play, which requires tough conditioning routines that started



CLAUDIA RIVERA/ VALLEY STAR
SOFTBALL SUPERSTAR - Candace Williams inspires her Lady Monarch teammates before they take the field against Allan Hancock

in July. They include running five laps around the field, doing 50 sit-ups and 50 push-ups.

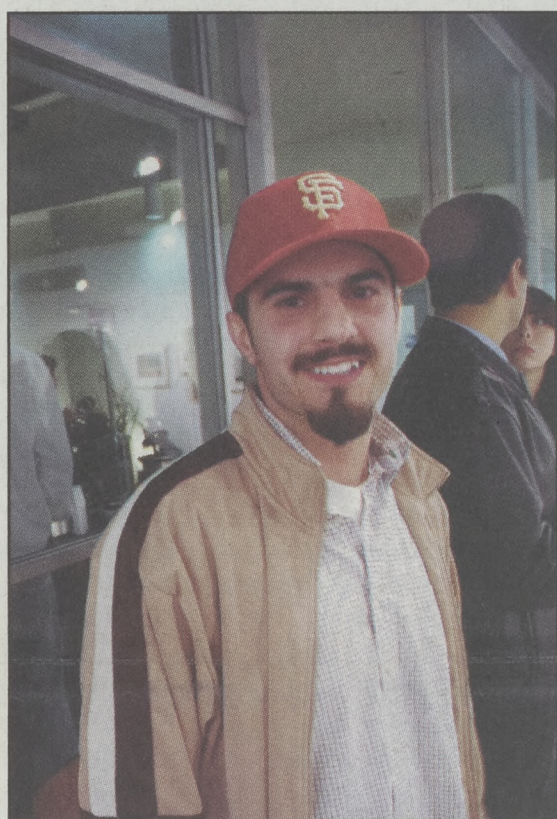
"It's a big difference between a high school schedule and a college schedule," said Williams. "You play close to 30 in high school and here it's close to 50."

An Undecided major, Williams said she would like to be a Kindergarten teacher after softball is

all said and done. She will have surgery this summer to remove the nine screws and two plates from her ankle, which has now healed. She says she has hopes of playing Division-I softball on the East Coast after her time at Valley is over, something coach Garcia says is a definite reality. "She's a D-I player for sure."



STUDENT PERSPECTIVES ON "WHERE WE LIVE"



Exhibitor Sevan Ghazaryan

Photos and Text by
Ricardo Barrera



The exhibition "Student Perspectives: Where we Live," currently on display at the Valley College Art Gallery, was the culmination of more than eight months of planning. Under the auspices of the Getty Museum, four schools - College of the Canyons, East Los Angeles College, Los Angeles Valley College, and Santa Monica College - were each represented by ten students who produced fine-art photographs for this first-of-its-kind collaboration.

